

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-10

NSCE-00 INRE-00 AID-20 XMB-07 OMB-01 RSR-01 TRSE-00

/101 W

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O 281131 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2049

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANAA 716

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJ: CIVAIR: POSSIBLE WETLEASE OF U. S. AIRCRAFT BY YEMEN
AIRLINES.

REF: STATE 77628; STATE 79037

1. WE ARE STILL TRYING TO GET DEFINITE WORD ON ASHAWAL'S
WHEREABOUTS. YAC BELIEVES HE STILL IN BEIRUT AND MAY RETURN HERE
MON-
DAY.

IT STILL POSSIBLE HE MEDGO TO STATES ON INFO GATHERING TRIP,
ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT HAVE AUTHORITY CONCLUDE DEAL THERE.

2. COMPLICATING PROBLEM IS THAT YAC HAS JUST BEEN REORGANIZED.
ASHWAL AND OTHER DIRECTORS HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY TEMPORARY BOARD
COMPOSED OF FOUR MINISTERS, HEADED BY MINISTER OF ECONOMY.

3. YAC IS NOT IN GOOD FINANCIAL CONDITION, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, BUT IT
MUDDLES THROUGH WITH ONE USED DEC-6 AND ONE USED DC-3. WE
QUESTIONED
YAC, ON FIRST LEARNING OF POSSIBLE WETLEASE, AND WERE TOLD THAT
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ASHWAL CONVINCED HE
COULD MEET DOLLARS 100,000 TO 125,000 MONTHLY COST
FROM OPERATING REVENUES. NEITHER YAC NOR HAZY, IN HIS LETTER TO US,
MENTIONED LARGE CASH DOWN PAYMENT. WE DOUBT YAC HAS FUNDS FOR
THIS,
ALTHOUGH YARG OR PROSPEROUS AID DONOR MIGHT HELP.

4. WE ALSO CONFUSED ABOUT TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. OUR LAST WORD
FROM
ASHWAL WAS THAT HE PLANNED TO MEET AI ZAPB IN BEIRUT AND RETURN TO
SANAA. HIS REQUEST IN KUWAIT FOR NIV CAME AS OUNCIL ASSISTS
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN THE DIRECTION OF THE
AFFAIRS OF STATE.

6. QUOTE ARTICLE 4. ALL OF THE AFFAIRS OF STATE ARE
SUBMITTED TO THE EXAMINATION OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL
WHICH DECIDES BY A MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS.
IN CASE OF A DIVISION OF OPINION THAT OF THE PRESIDENT
IS PREPONDERANT. THE DECISIONS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL
COUNCIL ARE ONLY VALID IF AT LEAST THREE MEMBERS HAVE
GIVEN THEIR OPINION. MEMBERS NOT PRESENT CAN
BE CONSULTED AT THEIR HOMES.

THE DELIVERATIONS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL ARE
RECORDED IN MINUTES (PROCES- VERBAL).

7. QUOTE ARTICLE 5. IN CASE OF THE ABSENCE OR INABILITY
OF THE PRESIDENT TO ATTEND THE VICE PRESIDENT REPLACES
HIM.

8. QUOTE ARTICLE 6 . ALL LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY
TEXTS DRAFTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC ARE
INITIALED IN ADVANCE BY THE MEMBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL
COUNCIL.

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9. QUOTE ARTICLE 7. THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL MEETS
WHEN CONVOKED BY THE PRESIDENT OR AT THE REQUEST OF ONE
OF ITS MEMBERS.

10. QUOTE ARTICLE 8. THE MEMBERS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL
COUNCIL HAVE THE RANK, PEROGATIVES, AND ALLOWANCES OF THE
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

11. QUOTE ARTICLE 9. THE PRESENT DECREE IS DECLARED
URGENTLY. UNQUOTE.

12. IN TAM TOLD US THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL MET

TODAY (APRIL 28) TO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF A NEW CABINET. THEY DECIDED THAT THE RESIGNATION OF THE PRESENT CABINET WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON MAY 2. IN ORDER TO FORM A NEW CABINET AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO BRING TOGETHER THE LEADERS OF THE THREE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES, THE SOCIO- REPUBLICANS, REPUBLICANS, AND DEMOCRATS, AS WELL AS SOK CHHONG AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THOSE INDEPENDENT OF PARTY AFFILIATION IN ORDER TO DRAW UP A PROGRAM WHICH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS TO FOLLOW. AN EFFORT WILL THEN BE MADE TO FORM A GOVERNMENT WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL THESE GROUPS. ALTHOUGH DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADER CHAU SAU' S PRESENT POSITION SEEMS TO PRECLUDE PARTICIPATION ON HIS PART IN TAM HOPES THAT OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS CAN BE PERSUADED TO TAKE PART.

13. IN TAM IS SATISFIED WITH THE TREND OF EVENTS THUS FAR AND REMARKED THAT LON NOL WAS LISTENING TO THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. IN TAM IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT LON NOL MAY NOT ALLOW HIM TO TRAVEL AND MEET DIRECTLY WITH THE PEOPLE WHICH HE CONSIDERS TO BE A MAJOR ASPECT OF ANY GOVERNMENTAL ROLE FOR HIMSELF. HE IS ALSO UNCERTAIN THAT LON NOL WILL AGREE TO RELINQUISH HIS PERSONAL CONTROL OVER THE MILITARY, EVEN THOUGH THE OTHER THREE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES IN THIS POINT. IN TAM SAID THAT HE WILL PROPOSE THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE BE GIVEN CONTROL OF THE MILITARY AND THAT A COMMANDER IN CHIEF BE APPOINTED TO TAKE CHARGE OF ELIMINATING THE

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ABUSES WHICH AT PRESENT HAMPER ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

14. COMMENT. IT APPEARS THAT THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL IS OFF TO A REASONABLY EFFECTIVE START, ALTHOUGH, THESE FOUR OFTEN STUBBORN AND INDEPENDENT MINDED MEMBERS MAY HAVE REMAINING DIFFERENCES TO WORK OUT OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. INDEED, CONFLICTS IN ANY QUADRUMIRATE ARE INEVITABLE, LET ALONE THIS ONE, OVER THE LONGER TERM.

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